



The Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman

Volume 33, Number 2

November 2003



President's Corner by Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP

November Meeting: The November meeting of the MMRA will take place at 7:30PM on Wednesday Nov 19th at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency facility in Framingham. Directions and a map are available on page 7 in this newsletter. I would like to thank William Muise, W1CDA, and Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, for making this possible.

I need to make one disclaimer related to this meeting: If for some reason the Homeland Security Warning level needs to be increased there may be an effect on this meeting. We will communicate any changes in plans as soon as possible. Although talk-in for the meeting will be on the Weston 146.820 repeater, we will also be listening on the Marlboro repeaters.

September Meeting: As announced in the September Newsletter, we had our meeting at the Waltham Pizzeria Uno. With about 20 attendees, I think that the MMRA generated more sound during this meeting (I did not want to say noise) than I have heard before. Our experiment with some meetings taking place in a restaurant venue will continue.

CEMARC Youth Net: There is planning underway to start up the CEMARC youth net for a new season. Although an exact date and plan is not defined at this time it is likely that the first session of the net will be in November or December, before the next newsletter. Stay tuned to the MMRA mail lists and/or the Tuesday night net for further information.

Repeater Controller Firmware Work: I would like to thank Bob De Mattia, K1IW, who has been doing a lot of work on the controller firmware recently. This includes making the local linking capability at Weston 146.82 and 224.70 more accessible, fixing the timeout defaults for the user link codes, and fixing various bugs.

Algonquin and Framingham Flea Markets: This Newsletter is probably arriving too late for very effective notice but the Framingham club's Flea Market is Sunday November 2nd. See <http://www.fara.org/> for details.

The MMRA has also received notice that the Algonquin club will be holding their annual Marlborough flea on Valentine's day, Saturday February 14th. They will be using the MMRA repeaters for talk-in.

The Weekly Tuesday night TIAOS Net: Tim Nau, KB1KGF, has volunteered to be one of the regular rotating net controls for the MMRA Tuesday night "Technical, Informational, and Other Stuff" Net which is held every Tuesday at 8PM on all of the linked repeaters of the MMRA system. I would like to thank Tim for volunteering. There is another net control slot available and if you would be interested please bring that up during the net or send email to mmra@mmra.org.

Membership Renewals: At this point only about 50% of the members from last year have renewed. If you have not yet renewed please do so. There are a lot of challenges for the MMRA coming up and we will need the support of every member.

Business Meetings: Members often ask me about technical (and other) details of the MMRA system. I would like to remind everyone that the board meetings (or Business meetings) of the MMRA are open to all members and are a really great way to find out everything you want to know about the MMRA and the repeaters.

Although we did not have a board meeting in October we generally have board meetings on the evening of the third Wednesday in months that do not have a regular meeting. Our next board meeting likely will be December 17th. Details are made available via the Tuesday night nets and via email to the MMRA email lists.

Happy Holidays: The holiday season will have come and gone before the next issue of the newsletter comes out. Our January meeting is planned to be in a restaurant venue similar to the meeting we had in September. I wish all Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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About the Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA has built a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The Minuteman newsletter is mailed one week before each meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles may be sent to the editor via email to n1be@arrl.net. The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

The MMRA meets on the 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. Meeting time, locations and talk-in frequency vary. These are announced in the newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Feel free to join us.

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are \$25 per individual or \$35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to mmra@mmra.org. The MMRA web site is: <http://www.mmra.org/>

An email distribution list for club members has been established on: <http://www.yahogroups.com/>

— the name of the group is "MMRA".

Repeater and Frequency Information

Location	MHz	PL	Call	Note
Marlboro	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL
Marlboro	146.610	146.2	N1BHI	FTL
Quincy	146.670	146.2	W1BRI	PTL
Stoneham	146.715	146.2	N1NVL	PTL
Weston	146.820	146.2	WZ0C	PTL
Brookline	146.985	88.5	W1FCC	Affiliated, PTL
Marlboro	147.270	146.2	W1MRA	PTL (to 10 Meters)
Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	N1BHI	FTL
Quincy	224.400	103.5	N1KUG	FTL
Weston	224.700	103.5	N1HBR	FTL
Stoneham	446.725	88.5	N1NVK	NA
Brookline	447.875	88.5	K1IW	Affiliated, PTL
Shrewsbury	449.575	88.5	W1BRI	FTL
Marlboro	449.925	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub
Marlboro	144.390	none	N1QPR-2	APRS Digipeater
Marlboro	145.030	none	W1MRA-3	KA-node Digipeater
?	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box

Notes: FTL = Full Time Linked to the Hub.
PTL = Part Time Linked (on demand).
NA = linking is Not Available.

PL: PL is now required on 2 meters to prevent interference.
The code **750** will temporarily disable the PL requirement.

Using the Autopatch: Only the hub has a telephone line.
(1) Link to the hub if necessary.
(2) Then bring up the patch using the 449.925 autopatch

Control codes are sent to members upon receipt of dues.

MMRA Leaders

President	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Treasurer	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Clerk	Jon Titus	KZ1G
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Director	Larry Banks	W1DYJ

Director	Shelley Northup	N1VJE
Director	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director	Bill Thorpe	WA1NLR
Emergency Coordinator	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Public Service Coordinator	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Newsletter Editor	Bob Evans	N1BE
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

MMRA Echolink Experiment

The MMRA has an experimental Echolink set-up to get some experience with this mode. This will provide us the knowledge to best take advantage of "voice-over IP" in a more permanent way in the future.

At his house, Bill, N1QPR, is hosting a connection from the Internet to the MMRA hub. This provides a capability for amateurs from anywhere in the world to connect to the MMRA.. There might be just one operator, or another repeater at the distant end of the link.

The distant station must run Echolink software. Then they can initiate a connection over the Internet to the MMRA, (Echolink Node #94940). Echolink software and many more details are available at <http://www.echolink.org/> For the specifics of how MMRA is using Echolink, please contact N1QPR or ask your questions during one of the Tuesday evening TIAOS nets.

In the past week, I heard a ham from Australia calling CQ on our repeaters via Echolink. Don't be shy if you hear such calls — we suddenly have a much wider coverage area!

Ham License Classes

Concord: The Colonial Wireless club license classes have started in Concord. Steve, N1BDA, is looking for VEs to help administer exams for that class on Friday evening, November 14. If you might be available, please contact Steve via email to N1BDA@arri.net.

Chelmsford: On Saturday, November 15, 2003, the Bilerica Amateur Radio Society, BARS, is sponsoring a one day ham radio class to help you get your Technician class amateur radio license. (Knowledge of the Morse code is NOT required for this license.) The class will cover all of the topics you need to know to pass the exam.

The class will be at the Murdock Middle school, 42 Brick Kiln Rd, Chelmsford MA. the lessons will run from 9 AM to 6 PM. At 6 PM there will be a test session where you can take the exam to get your license.

The cost of the class is \$15. The \$15 fee includes one year BARS membership. The fee is waived for current BARS members and their family. The exam will cost \$12.00.

Please contact Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, for details at 978-851-2886 or the following email address: W1LUS@arri.net

CMARA Institutes Direction Finding Team

CMARA has a DF Team for a two-fold purpose:

- To further the art of Direction Finding by hosting foxhunts and assisting with technical and equipment needs, such as building Doppler DF units.
- To deal with any interference issues that may be solved through the use of DF abilities and liaison with ARRL Official Observers by acting as a Local Interference Committee

The team will be led by a Team Leader. The leader will be responsible for overall supervision of the team and its activities. The leader will maintain a list of members currently active with the team.

The team will act as a local interference committee of the ARRL OO program. The team will have an OO as a liaison.

The team will maintain an e-mail reflector through CMARA to keep members informed of the team's activities. The team may also establish a section on the CMARA website.

The team, with the cooperation of the repeater trustees, will establish an information sheet containing instructions about how to deal with malicious interference and how to help with a solution to the problem. The team will also maintain some

resources for taking reports of RFI (e-mail list or address, telephone answering service, web logging utility, etc.).

The team's short-term goals will be to find members who are interested in the team and establish a membership. The team will also setup recording stations (using the RecAll software) to record the input of 146.97 in an attempt to gather information about malicious interference.

The team's long-term goals will be to build doppler DF units for team members to use in foxhunts and when tracking down malicious interferers. The team will investigate the use of APRS technology to aid in this process. The team will put together DF groups to go out and search for malicious interferers. The team will organize regular foxhunts for members to practice their skills. The team may also explore other DF-related projects, such as building small, portable Yagi antennas and attenuators.

If you have any questions or info for the team just send an e-mail to dfteam@cmara.org

If you would like to be a part of this team and are not on the list, e-mail Dave, AE1DG, at ae1dg@cmara.org and ask to be put on the list.

73 Magazine Says "73 And QRT"

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. According to self-proclaimed "El Supremo and Founder" Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

"After failing a last minute effort to collect on some larger accounts receivable we decided yesterday to throw in the towel--that the September issue will have to be the last," Green told ARRL October 9. "SK after 43 years of publishing."

The first issue of 73 was published in October 1960 from what Green--a former editor of CQ--once described as "a small, dingy apartment" in Brooklyn, New York. Since the summer of 1962, 73 has been based in Peterborough, New Hampshire--Green's home state. The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects and the marriage of personal computing and Amateur Radio. His interest in microcomputing led Green in 1975 to found Byte, a magazine devoted to the then-nascent and largely do-it-yourself computer hobby.

At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of ads, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green's inimitable "Never Say Die" — some would say never-ending — editorial, in which he rarely missed an opportunity to tweak the ARRL

and his magazine competitors for their perceived shortcomings.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says 73 published his first article in the 1970s. "I was saddened to hear that 73 has ceased publishing," Ford said. "Wayne's excitement about the growing amateur FM repeater phenomenon at the time was infectious."

Green's 73 editorials and regular round of personal appearances originally concentrated on Amateur Radio and his ideas to improve, advance and grow it. In recent years, however, they've veered into conspiracy theories, cures for cancer, AIDS and other ailments and Green's proliferation of book titles on those topics.

Green says he'll continue his essays on his Web site, <http://www.waynengreen.com> "for those subscribers who mainly bought the magazine for them." He told ARRL that no definite arrangements have been made yet about how to handle outstanding 73 subscriptions.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said he takes no joy from the passing of 73. "The loss of any publication serving Amateur Radio leaves all of us a bit poorer," he said. "Thank you, Wayne, for 43 entertaining, informative, sometimes infuriating, and always interesting years of 73. We'll genuinely miss it."

Rohn Files For Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

Rohn Industries, <http://www.rohnnet.com/> filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy September 16 in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The best-known manufacturer of tower and tower hardware for the Amateur Radio community, the Peoria, Illinois-based company manufactures towers, antenna support structures and "infrastructure equipment" for the telecommunications industry. In business since 1948, the firm also makes security fencing and provides design and construction services.

"Our immediate goal is to stabilize the company's financial situation and utilize the Chapter 11 process to enable the company to conduct normal business operations as the company works to complete a sale transaction," Rohn Industries President Horace Ward said in announcing the company's bankruptcy filing. Rohn says it's now in discussions with an unrelated third party regarding a proposed asset sale while it continues to conduct business as usual. Ward told ARRL there is "no truth" to a rumor circulating on some Internet newsgroups that disgruntled workers had damaged manufacturing equipment beyond repair in reprisal for consolidating fabrication facilities last January into a single plant in Frankfort, Indiana.

The impact of Rohn's troubles on the Amateur Radio community is not clear, but at least one major antenna products supplier reported earlier this summer that it was having problems getting Rohn products, although it continues to offer them. Ward told ARRL this week that Rohn intends "to execute the orders we have and to continue to take orders in the normal course of business."

In the company's statement, Ward attributed the bankruptcy filing to a severe downturn in the telecommunications industry. In July, NASDAQ delisted Rohn Industries after it was unable to meet its minimum bid price requirement. The company remains eligible for listing on the Over the Counter (OTC) Bulletin Board (OTC-BB: ROHN). During the past 52 weeks, the company's stock has sold for as little as a penny a share.

At the same time it filed for Chapter 11 protection, Rohn has announced it's entered into a \$9.5 million debtor-in-possession credit line with its lenders. The bankruptcy court must approve that agreement.

Material on this page appears courtesy of the ARRL Letter which is published by The American Radio Relay League.

Minuteman Repeater Association

Quick Membership Renewal

Please use reverse side for new memberships.

(Renew online — Use the Member's Login on www.mmra.org)

Name: _____

Callsign: _____

Email: _____

Dues paid (please check one):

☐ Individual Membership (Dues: \$25 per year)

☐ Family Membership (Dues: \$35 per year)

Do you want to receive the newsletter via email? If so, you'll receive more content earlier.

☐ Check box for Electronic Newsletter: You must supply an email address.

Any other info changed since your last application was filed?

☐ If yes, please check here and please fill in new info on the reverse side.

Please submit completed application forms with your dues
at the MMRA meeting
or mail to:

MMRA
P.O. Box 669
Stow MA 01775-0669

Minuteman Repeater Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 669
Stow MA 01775-0669

A Non-Profit Communications Organization Serving the Public in Time of Emergency.

— Membership Form —

☐ New or ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual Membership (Dues: \$25 per year) or ☐ Family Membership (Dues: \$35 per year)
or ☐ Novice Membership (1st year Dues: \$10)

I hereby apply for membership in the **MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.** I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association as stated in the bylaws., and understand that acceptance of this application entitles me to all rights and privileges of membership as provided under the bylaws.

☐ Check box for Electronic Newsletter: Receive more content earlier. Must supply email address.

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Member of the ARRL? _____ Other Clubs? _____

Bands and Modes you operate. Please check all that apply:

	Fixed	Mobile	Portable	FM	DTMF	CW	RTTY	PSK31	APRS	Packet	SSB
HF											
VHF											
UHF											
Satellite											

I can and am willing to assist/serve the Association and/or help maintain the Repeaters in the following ways:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Setup | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaking at a meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Association Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Net Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | Other—Please specify: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Shelters | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Control Operator | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Technical Committee | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events | _____ |

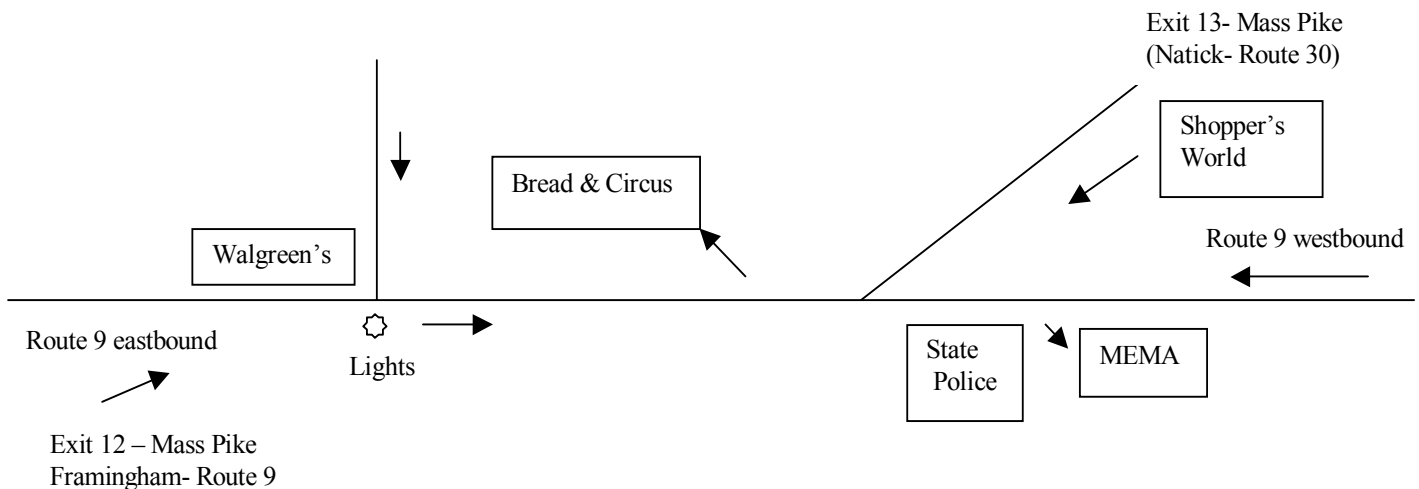
Other family members:

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____



Directions to the MMRA Meeting

We will be meeting at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, 400 Worcester Road (Route 9 eastbound), Framingham, MA 01702-5399. The MEMA telephone is (508) 820-2000. **Please monitor the talk-in on 146.82 in case we must make a last-minute change of plans.**

From the West:

1. Take Mass Pike East to Exit 12 (Framingham Route 9).
2. Travel approximately 2 miles to MA State Police Headquarters on the right, immediately followed by MEMA. (MEMA has several tall communications towers).
3. Enter through the gate.
4. MEMA is underground. Enter building and follow the ramp to the reception desk.

From the East:

1. Take the Mass Pike West to Exit 13 (Natick/Framingham Route 30).
2. Take Route 30 West towards Framingham and drive for approximately 2 miles going through all lights until the end.
3. Take a right onto Route 9 Westbound. (Note that the MEMA communication towers are visible across Route 9 on the eastbound side.)
4. Continue approximately ½ miles on Route 9 Westbound.
5. Turn right into the Bread & Circus parking lot to turn around.
6. Take a left out of Bread & Circus onto Prospect Street.
7. Take a left at the lights heading Eastbound on Route 9. MEMA is approximately 1.5 miles on the right.
8. Enter through gate.
9. MEMA is underground. Enter building and follow ramp to reception desk.

From the South:

1. Take Route 128 (95) North to Route 9 West (Exit 20B).
2. Follow Route 9 for approximately 8 miles. MEMA is on the Eastbound side of Route 9 and is marked by several tall communications towers.

3. Take your next right into the Bread & Circus parking lot to turn around.
4. Take a left out of Bread & Circus onto Prospect Street.
5. Take a left at the lights heading Eastbound on Route 9. MEMA is approximately 1.5 miles on the right.
6. Enter through gate.
7. MEMA is underground. Enter building and follow ramp to reception desk.

From the North:

1. Take Route 93 South to Route 128 (95).
2. Follow above directions, from the South step 2

EMA Emergency Test

Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, invites Eastern Massachusetts radio amateurs to play in our annual Section Emergency Test (SET), scheduled for Saturday morning, November 8th. As most of you know, it is our annual opportunity to formally evaluate our emergency communication skills, and readiness to respond to exigencies.

The SET we will be emphasizing local response with a mandatory inter-district communication element. The scenario is a crippling winter storm. It is suggested that participants operate from home on emergency power. Please contact your DEC to coordinate your efforts on this year's exercise.

Much more information is available at the EMA ARES web site, <http://ares.ema.arrrl.org/>

Mike, W1MPN, is the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator for the Eastern Massachusetts Section.

Next Meeting — Wednesday November 19, 2003 W1CDA: MEMA Bunker in Framingham

William T Muise, W1CDA, will be our host as we tour the MEMA Emergency Operating Center (EOC). MEMA, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, coordinates all resources of the Commonwealth to avert or combat the effects of disaster, either natural or man-made.

The MEMA EOC has extensive communications facilities which include the use of ham radio via RACES. MEMA maintains a public web site at <http://mass.gov/mema>

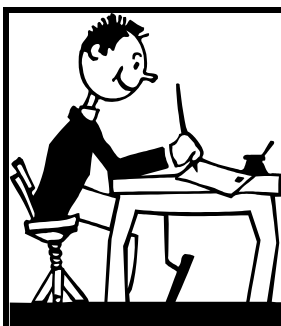
Directions for driving to MEMA are given on page 7.

The meeting will start at 7:30PM. Please monitor talk-in on 146.820, a last minute change in plans may be necessary if MEMA needs to respond to an emergency or if there is a change in the Homeland Security Threat Advisory Level.

Calendar of Ham Radio Events

- Nov 2:** FARA flea, Framingham
- Nov 7:** HCRA Auction, Feeding Hills MA
- Nov 8:** EMA Simulated Emergency Test
- Nov 15:** WARA+1200 auction, Newtonville
- Nov 19:** **MMRA meeting at MEMA**
- Dec 17:** **MMRA board meeting**
- Dec 26:** **MMRA Newsletter Deadline**
- Jan 17:** Antique Radio flea, Nashua NH
- Jan 21:** **MMRA social meeting**
- Feb 14:** Algonquin Flea, Marlborough

(Flea market info from W1GSL list. <http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>)



MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month

9 AM at the Marlboro Public Library

Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ

781-891-9079 Evenings 6 to 10 PM,

Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

Accredited by the ARRL VEC

THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

MMRA
P.O. Box 669
Stow, MA. 01775-0669

Email: mmra@mmra.org



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/](http://www.mmra.org/)
